

HANDBOOK  
TO THE GRAMMAR  
OF THE  
GREEK TESTAMENT  
WITH COMPLETE VOCABULARY

BY THE  
REV. SAMUEL G. GREEN, D.D.

NEW IMPRESSION: REVISED

1912

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η χάρις του κυρίου ιησου χριστου  
και η αγαλη του θεου  
και η κοινωνια του αγιου πνευματος  
μετα παντων υμων  
αμην

-2 Corinthians 13:14

HANDBOOK TO THE GRAMMAR  
OF THE GREEK TESTAMENT

# HANDBOOK TO THE GRAMMAR OF THE GREEK TESTAMENT

TOGETHER WITH COMPLETE VOCABULARY  
AND AN EXAMINATION OF THE CHIEF NEW  
TESTAMENT SYNONYMS

BY THE LATE  
REV. SAMUEL G. GREEN, D.D.

Author of "A Handbook to Old Testament Hebrew"  
"A Handbook of Church History," etc.

*Illustrated by Numerous Examples*

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## PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION.

(SEE ALSO NOTE TO REVISED EDITION, *p.* xi.)

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THAT a knowledge of the New Testament in its original tongue is a thing to be desired by intelligent Christians none will question. Such desire has probably been largely quickened by the appearance of the Revised Version. No book can be thoroughly known in a translation only; and the Bible, although "the most translatable of books," is no exception.

Many, who would gladly undertake the study, are deterred by the manifold and unquestionable difficulties of the Greek language. It seems worth while to ask whether this obstacle cannot, in some measure, be removed.

Undoubtedly, the Greek of the New Testament, as a later dialect of an elaborate and polished language, can most effectively be studied through the medium of the elder forms of the tongue. This method, accordingly, is in general chosen; and the historians and orators, the philosophers and poets of Greece, have led the way to the Evangelists and the Apostles.

Yet many persons have no opportunity for studies so extended and difficult. Are they, therefore, to be forbidden all access, save through translators, critics, and interpreters, to the words of the Divine revelation?

In attempting to reply, we note that the Greek of Scripture is, for most purposes, a language complete in itself. Its forms and rules are definite, its usages in general precise. Its peculiarities, though best approached from the classic side, may be reached by a shorter way, and be almost as well comprehended.

Many circumstances, again, facilitate the special study of the New Testament tongue. The language of orators and philosophers had descended to men of simpler mind and less artificial speech. Comparing the Sacred Volume with Greek literature generally, we find a smaller vocabulary, fewer grammatical forms, less intricate etymological rules, with scantier lists of



exceptions, and a far less elaborate syntax; while the student has the advantage of being confined for the time to one limited, but intensely interesting, field.

The following pages are then intended as a sufficient guide to Biblical Greek for English students, that is, for those who have not studied the classical languages. It may also be of service to those who have made some progress in classical studies, but who wish to concentrate their chief regards upon the language and syntax of the New Testament.

The plan of the volume, and the method recommended for its study, are sufficiently set forth in the Introduction. To specify all the sources, English and German, from which valuable aid has been derived, would be unnecessary. Winer's comprehensive work (translated into English, with large and valuable additions, by the Rev. Dr. Moulton, of Cambridge) has of course been consulted throughout. Scarcely less useful have been the researches and discussions of the late Dr. Donaldson. The New Testament Grammars of the Rev. W. Webster, and of the Rev. T. S. Green, have afforded some very valuable hints. On Greek Testament Lexicography, it will suffice to name the *Clavis Novi Testamenti* by Dr. C. L. W. Grimm, now translated into English, with additions, by Dr. J. H. Thayer; also Cremer's *New Testament Lexicon*, translated by the Rev. W. Urwick, M.A.

The first Edition of the work was carefully revised in MS. by the Rev. Dr. Jacob, late Head Master of Christ's Hospital, author of the *Bromsgrove Greek Grammar*, and other classical works; and, in the proof sheets, by the Rev. R. B. Girdlestone, M.A., and by the late Rev. T. G. Rooke, B.A., afterwards President of Rawdon College. To the important suggestions of those gentlemen the volume owes very much. It is commended to attentive students of the New Testament, in the hope that it may lead not a few to the better understanding, and therefore to the higher appreciation of the Divine oracles.

## INTRODUCTION.

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THE following work so far differs from other manuals of the Greek language, both in its method and in the persons for whom it is intended, that some preliminary words on the plan by which its several parts should be studied will not be out of place.

On ORTHOGRAPHY, the sections should be thoroughly mastered, not only for the sake of facility in reading, but because most of the difficulties and so-called irregularities in the inflection of substantives, adjectives, and verbs depend on letter-changes, of which the rules are comparatively few, and really simple. To know these laws at the outset is to be provided with a key to varieties and intricacies which might otherwise prove hopelessly bewildering. It will be advisable that no student should advance beyond this portion of the work before being able to read the lessons on pages 10, 11 with fluency, and accurately to transliterate the paragraph on page 12. Great attention should be paid at this stage to pronunciation, especially to the distinction between the long and short vowels; and those who may be studying the work by themselves are strongly recommended to take an opportunity of reading a chapter or two in Greek to some scholar who can criticise and correct their mistakes.

In ETYMOLOGY, the forms must be carefully and completely learned. Everything in the student's further progress depends upon this. It is believed that the systematic and progressive plan on which the substantives and verbs, as the groundwork of the whole, have been discussed, will but lightly burden the memory, while the judgment will be kept constantly at work. The chief point to be noted is the place and power of the STEM in Greek

words. The first and second declensions of SUBSTANTIVES will be seen to be mainly reducible to the same law ; the third declension, instead of perplexing the learner by countless varieties, will exhibit one normal form. The inflection of ADJECTIVES will appear but a repetition of that of the Substantives ; while the PRONOUNS only slightly differ. Of the VERBS, the terminations should in the first instance be carefully studied. The first Paradigm exhibits the simplest way in which these terminations are combined with the verbal root ; those that follow being but variations on the same model, according to the character of the Stem. The Verbs in  $\mu$ , called here "the Second Conjugation," are classified in a way which, it is believed, will give no serious difficulty to the student.

The EXERCISES up to this point are simply for practice in declension and conjugation, consisting almost exclusively of words occurring in the "Sermon on the Mount : " they are fair specimens of the ordinary vocabulary of the language ; and the learner is strongly recommended to write them out in all their forms, not neglecting the accents, which, by the help of the rules given under the several heads, will present but little difficulty.

A stock of words will thus have been acquired, with a knowledge of forms of inflection quite sufficient for ordinary cases. Some chapters of greater difficulty follow (§§ 93—99 inclusive), treating of the Verbs, tense by tense, and exhibiting the chief variations and anomalies in particular words. These sections may be omitted on a first study of the volume, but it will be important to read them carefully afterwards. The aim has been, so to classify the verbal forms that the apparent irregularities may be seen to be, in general, exemplifications of some more extended rule ; and without trespassing on the more extended field of classical literature, to leave no word in the New Testament without the means of ready analysis and explanation.

The Exercises which succeed these sections are for still further test. Here for the first time some easy sentences are introduced for translation. Logically, these should no doubt have been deferred until some rules of Syntax had been laid down ; but the

interest and utility of such Exercises may be held a sufficient defence of the irregularities, especially as they contain scarcely any usages but such as are already familiar to those who have grammatically studied any language. Here the Vocabulary will be found necessary.

The chapters on the indeclinable Parts of Speech (§§ 118—138 inclusive) call for no remark. Their complete discussion belongs to Syntax: but it was held necessary to the completeness of the Etymology to give at least a general view of their formation and meaning. So far as they extend, these sections should be closely studied.

The reader will then be prepared for the SYNTAX, the study of the intermediate chapters being postponed, if preferred, to a subsequent stage. These sections (§§ 139—159 inclusive), on the different Languages of which the New Testament contains the trace, and on New Testament Proper Names, will suggest topics of interesting inquiry, which, in a manual like the present, could be pursued only for a very little way.

The SYNTAX embodies the simplest laws of concord, government, and the connection of sentences, as well as others of a more special and less obvious kind. The doctrines of the Article, of the Preposition, and of the Tenses, have received careful attention, as throwing light on many obscure or misunderstood passages. The arrangement of the Syntax has been adopted with a view to the learner's convenience, and for the most part follows the order of the parts of speech.

The student is specially and strongly recommended to study the order of the whole work, and especially of this part, in the ANALYTICAL TABLE OF CONTENTS. To this Table much care has been devoted, in the hope that it might be convenient, not only for ordinary reference, but as an outline and *conspectus* of the volume; suggesting at one view the leading principles of the language, and especially useful in recapitulatory examinations.

The sentences from the Greek Testament, so numerous in this division of the work, are intended partly to exemplify the rules to which they are appended, the illustrative words being printed

in a thicker type ; partly also to form together a series of Preparatory Reading Lessons or *Primer*, introductory to the Sacred Volume. The student is therefore earnestly counselled to study these sentences in order. Most of them, of course, belong to the easier parts of New Testament Scripture ; others again are more difficult and unusual in their structure ; while in very many will be discovered shades or specialties of meaning which the English Version does not exhibit, and which perhaps no translation could reproduce. The study, therefore, of these sentences will be an introduction to Biblical exegesis, which may prepare not a few readers for more extended inquiries.

A brief discussion of the chief New Testament SYNONYMS, and a VOCABULARY to the whole New Testament, complete the plan of the work.

This HANDBOOK claims, be it remembered, to be an Introduction only. By its means, a not inadequate beginning may be made in what is surely the noblest of studies. Its aim is to familiarise many readers, who else had despaired of the possibility, with the words of CHRIST and of His Apostles. Should its purpose in any way be accomplished, it will give access also to those criticisms by which expositors in our own land and age, as in others, have so variously and nobly illustrated the "living oracles." The labour followed by such rewards will have been well spent : and readers of the New Testament in its own tongue, whether they advance or not to that high critical discernment which only the few attain, will have found in the acquisition a pure and life-long joy.

## NOTE TO REVISED EDITION.

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THE experience of many years, and the numerous testimonies received to the value of the HANDBOOK, have warranted the Editor in re-issuing the work in the same general form as heretofore. The whole, however, has undergone a very close and careful revision, results of which appear on almost every page. The frequent references to the REVISED NEW TESTAMENT VERSION of 1881 are indicated by the letters R. V. Improvements have also been made in the size of the page, and the emphasising of points of importance by thick type, that the eye may aid the mind.

In the former editions the Greek Testament quotations were made in general from the Received Text; the various readings of Griesbach, Lachmann, Tischendorf, and Tregelles, being occasionally given. In order to secure the advantage of a modern critical text, without discussions that often convey no real help to the learner, the passages are now mostly cited from the Greek Testament of Drs. WESTCOTT and HORT, 1881, while cases of important divergence from the Received Text are always noted. The Editor begs to acknowledge the courtesy and kindness of Messrs. Macmillan in permitting the free use of this Text; and to add that a school edition has been published, with lists of

various readings, and a sufficient critical apparatus for learners. The letters W. H. indicate the references to this work. It should be added that its *orthography* had not been implicitly followed, in the many cases where it differs from that of ordinary Greek.

The VOCABULARY has been entirely reconstructed, and is printed on a new plan, which it is hoped will greatly add to the usefulness of this important part of the work.

The Editor would only add, that the revision of this HANDBOOK has been mainly the work of his son, the Rev. S. Walter Green, M.A., New Testament Professor in Regent's Park College, London. Both are much indebted to T. Osborne, Esq., of Stroud, for his suggestions on the former edition; and to the Rev. S. Newth, D.D., late Principal of New College, London, and member of the New Testament Revision Company, for corrections and additions in the Vocabulary.

SAMUEL G. GREEN.

### NOTE TO 1912 EDITION.

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SOME *errata*, chiefly in accentuation and Scripture references, have been corrected. These are most numerous in the VOCABULARY, and the Publishers desire to acknowledge the courtesy of the Rev. M. L. Gaunt, of Sandown, I.W., in furnishing a list compiled during long and constant use of the HANDBOOK.

# ANALYTICAL TABLE OF CONTENTS.

## PART I.

### ORTHOGRAPHY.

SECT.		PAGE
1.	<b>THE ALPHABET.</b> Names, forms, and numeral values of the letters . . . . .	1
2.	Notes on the Alphabet . . . . .	2
3.	<b>THE VOWELS :</b> (a) their pronunciation, long and short . . . . .	2
	(b) The diphthongs (regularly <i>long</i> ) . . . . .	2
	(c) The "breathings" of initial vowels . . . . .	3
	(d) The "breathings" of initial $\rho$ . . . . .	3
	(e) The lengthening of vowels in inflection . . . . .	3
	(f) The contraction of vowels. <b>Table.</b>	
	<b>Exercise 1. Vowel Contractions</b> . . . . .	4
	(g) Diaeresis . . . . .	4
	(h) Hiatus, and the ways of avoiding it—	
	1. The <i>nu</i> suffixed ( $\nu$ ἐφελευστικόν) . . . . .	4
	2. Elision (apostrophe) . . . . .	4
	3. Crasis . . . . .	4
4.	<b>THE CONSONANTS</b> . . . . .	5
	(a) Division into mutes and liquids . . . . .	5
	(b) Classification of mutes . . . . .	5
	(c) The sibilant $\sigma$ , and its combinations . . . . .	5
	(d) Rules of consonant combination—	
	1. Labials or gutturals, with $\sigma$ . . . . .	6
	2. Labials or gutturals, with a dental . . . . .	6
	3. Dentals before $\sigma$ . . . . .	6
	4. Mutes before $\mu$ . . . . .	6
	5. Combinations of $\nu$ with other consonants . . . . .	6
	6. A sharp mute before an aspirated vowel . . . . .	6
	7. Consecutive syllables not to begin with an aspirate . . . . .	6
	8. Consonants that may be final . . . . .	6
	<b>Exercise 2. On the Combinations of Consonants</b> . . . . .	6
5.	Changes of Consonants by assimilation, duplication, transposition, omission, or insertion . . . . .	7



SECT.		PAGE
6.	<b>THE ACCENTS</b> . . . . .	7
	(a) Use of the accents . . . . .	7
	(b) The different accents . . . . .	7
	(c) Rules of accentuation . . . . .	8
	(d, e) Enclitics and Proclitics . . . . .	8
7.	On the transference of Greek words into English . . . . .	9
	Latin the usual medium . . . . .	9
	Equivalents of $\kappa$ , $\nu$ , $\alpha\iota$ , $\omicron\iota$ , $\epsilon\iota$ , $\omicron\nu$ , initial I and 'P . . . . .	9
8.	<b>Punctuation</b> . . . . .	10
	Marks of pause, interrogation, quotation, and for "etc." . . . .	10
	<b>Reading Lessons—</b>	
	1. Acts ii. 1-13 . . . . .	10
	2. Rom. iv. 1-16 . . . . .	11
	3. Matt. v. 1-16, in Roman characters . . . . .	12

## PART II.

### ETYMOLOGY.

#### CHAPTER I.—INTRODUCTION.

9.	The "Parts of Speech" . . . . .	14
10.	<b>THE ROOT and STEM</b> . . . . .	14
	Pure and (impure) liquid or mute stems . . . . .	14
	(The stem to be marked by thick letters) . . . . .	14

#### CHAPTER II.—THE NOUN OR SUBSTANTIVE.

11.	<b>GENDER, NUMBER, and CASE</b> . . . . .	15
	General significance of the Cases . . . . .	15
12, 13.	<b>THE DEFINITE ARTICLE and Indefinite Pronoun</b> . . . . .	15
	Types of Substantive and Adjective Declension . . . . .	16
14.	Characteristics of all Declensions of Nouns . . . . .	16
	(a) Neuter Nominatives and Accusatives alike . . . . .	16
	Their plural termination always $\alpha$ . . . . .	16
	(b) The Dative Singular in $\iota$ ("iota subscript") . . . . .	16
	(c) The Genitive Plural in $\omega\nu$ . . . . .	16
	(d) Masculine like the Neuter in Genitive and Dative . . . . .	16
15.	Rules for determining the GENDER of Nouns . . . . .	17
	(a) <i>Masculine</i> : names of males, rivers, winds . . . . .	17
	(b) <i>Feminine</i> : names of females, trees, countries, islands, and abstract nouns . . . . .	17

SECT.		PAGE
15.	(c) <i>Neuter</i> : diminutives, indeclinables, and the verbal noun (infinitive) (Note on common and epicœne words)	17 17
16.	<b>DECLENSION OF NOUNS SUBSTANTIVE</b>	17
	Three leading types	17
	Illustrations: <i>πύλη, ἄνθρωπος, παῖς</i>	18
	Resemblances between the first and second	18
	The <b>A</b> and <b>O</b> Declension (parisyllabic)	19
	The Separable Declension (imparisyllabic)	19
17.	<b>THE FIRST DECLENSION (A)</b>	19
18.	Feminine Paradigms ( <i>ἡμέρα, δόξα, τιμή, σκία</i> ), and Remarks	19
19.	Masculine Paradigms ( <i>μαθητής, νεανίας</i> ), and Remarks	20
	<b>Exercise 3. Nouns of the First Declension</b>	21
20.	Irregular forms of the First Declension	21
21.	<b>THE SECOND DECLENSION (O)</b>	22
22.	Masculine ( <i>λόγος</i> ) and Feminine ( <i>δόξος</i> ) Paradigms, and Remarks	22
23.	Neuter Paradigm ( <i>σῦκον</i> ), and Remarks	23
24.	Paradigm of Contracted Nouns in <i>οο-, εο-, νοῦς, ὁστοῦν</i> ( <i>Ἀπολλῶς</i> )	23
25.	Declension of <i>Ἰησοῦς</i>	24
	<b>Exercise 4. Nouns of the Second Declension</b>	24
26.	<b>THE THIRD DECLENSION (imparisyllabic)</b>	24
	Importance of knowing the Stem	25
27.	General Paradigm: <i>αἰών, ῥῆμα</i>	25
28.	Terminations of this Declension	25
29.	Paradigms of Third Declension	26
	1. <i>Ἄραψ, κήρυξ, ἰχθύς, πόλις</i>	26
	2. <i>ποιμήν, λέων, αἰδώς, πατήρ, ἀνήρ</i>	27
	3. <i>βασιλεύς, βοῦς</i>	28
	4. <i>γένος</i>	29
	5. Referred to § 27	29
	<b>Exercise 5. Nouns of the Third Declension</b>	29
30.	Rules for the Nominative	30
	1. <i>s</i> added to the stem	30
	2. The stem lengthened	30
	3. Digammated stems ( <i>ευ-, αυ-, ου-</i> )	31
	4. Neuter stems in <i>ες- (ος)</i>	31
	5. Stem unchanged	31
31.	Irregular Nouns of the Third Declension	32
32.	<b>SUBSTANTIVES OF VARIABLE DECLENSION</b>	32
	(a) Interchanges between the second and third	32
	(b) The word <i>σάββατον, Sabbath</i>	32
	(c) Proper names, especially <i>Moses, Jerusalem</i>	33
	Hebrew indeclinables	33
	<b>Exercise 6. Promiscuous List of Nouns</b>	33

## CHAPTER III.—ADJECTIVES.

SECT.		PAGE
33.	<b>THREE FORMS</b> , correspondent with substantive declensions	34
34.	FIRST FORM	34
	Paradigms of ἀγαθός, δίκαιος, μικρός, and Remarks	34
35.	Contracted Adjectives, χρυσοῦς; Remarks	35
36.	SECOND FORM	36
	General Remarks	36
37.	Paradigms of ὀξύς, πᾶς, ἐκόν	36
38.	Participles of this class (declension of ἐστώς)	37
39.	Adjectives of double form: μέγας, πολὺς	38
40.	THIRD FORM	39
	General Remarks	39
41.	Paradigms of ἀληθής, σώφρων	39
	<b>COMPARISON OF ADJECTIVES</b>	40
42.	FIRST METHOD	40
	Comparison of πίστος, ἀληθής, σοφός, νέος	40
43.	SECOND METHOD	41
	Comparison of ταχύς, αἰσχρός, καλός, μέγας	41
44.	Declension of comparatives in -ίων (μείζων)	41
45.	Irregular and alternative comparisons	42
	ἀγαθός, κακός, μικρός, πολὺς	42
46.	DEFECTIVE COMPARATIVES AND SUPERLATIVES	42
47.	EMPHATIC METHODS OF COMPARISON	42
	<b>Exercise 7. Adjectives for Practice</b>	43
	<b>NUMERALS</b>	44
48.	THE CARDINAL NUMBERS	44
	(a) Signs of numeration	44
	(b) Disused letters as numeral signs	44
	(c) Composite numerical expressions	44
49.	Declension of the cardinal numbers	44
	εἷς, δύο, τρεῖς, τέσσαρες	44
50.	THE ORDINAL NUMBERS	45
51.	<b>Table of Cardinals and Ordinals, and Remark</b>	45
52.	DISTRIBUTIVE NUMBERS	47
	<b>Exercise 8. Numbers: Numerical symbols, and phrases for translation</b>	47

## CHAPTER IV.—PRONOUNS.

53.	<b>PERSONAL PRONOUNS</b>	49
	1. SUBSTANTIVE-PERSONAL ("personal")	49
	First person, ἐγώ, ἡμεῖς; second, σύ, ὑμεῖς	49
54.	Third person, by αὐτός, ἡ, ὁ	49

SECT.		PAGE
55.	2. REFLEXIVE . . . . .	49
	First person, <i>ἐμαυτοῦ</i> ; second, <i>σεαυτοῦ</i> . . . . .	50
	Third, <i>ἐαυτοῦ</i> ( <i>αὐτοῦ</i> ) . . . . .	50
56.	3. ADJECTIVE-PERSONAL (possessive) . . . . .	50
	(a) <i>ἐμός, ἡμέτερος, σός, ὑμέτερος</i> . . . . .	50
	(b, c) Genitive of the personal pronouns as possessives . . . . .	50
57.	DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUNS . . . . .	51
	Framed upon the model of the Article . . . . .	51
	(a, b, c, d) <i>ὅδε, οὗτος, ἐκεῖνος, ὁ αὐτός</i> . . . . .	51
	(e) <i>τοιούτος, τοσοῦτος, τοσοῦτοι, τηλικούτος</i> . . . . .	52
58.	THE RELATIVE PRONOUN . . . . .	52
	(a, b) <i>ὅς, ἡ, ὅ</i> ; (c, d) <i>ὅστις, ὅσπερ, ὅσγε</i> . . . . .	52
	(e) Relatives of quality, quantity, number, degree . . . . .	53
59.	INTERROGATIVE PRONOUNS . . . . .	53
	(a) The simple Interrogative, <i>τίς; τί;</i> . . . . .	53
	(b) Correlatives of quality, quantity, number, degree . . . . .	53
	(c) Direct interrogatives in indirect construction . . . . .	53
	(d) Interrogatives properly indirect . . . . .	53
60.	INDEFINITE PRONOUNS . . . . .	54
	(a, b) The ordinary Indefinite, <i>τις</i> , and negative compound . . . . .	54
	(c) The old Indefinite, <i>ὁ δέῃνα</i> . . . . .	54
61.	DISTRIBUTIVE PRONOUNS . . . . .	54
	(a) <i>ἄλλος</i> , (b) <i>ἕτερος</i> , (c) <i>ἀλλήλων</i> , (d) <i>ἕκαστος</i> . . . . .	54
62.	Table of Correlative Pronouns . . . . .	54

CHAPTER V.—THE VERB.

53.	THE VOICES . . . . .	55
	Four things predicated by the Verb . . . . .	55
	Threefold modification of the verbal stem . . . . .	55
	Active, Middle, Passive . . . . .	55
64.	THE MOODS . . . . .	55
	Four Modes or Moods . . . . .	55
	1. The INDICATIVE, and its use. . . . .	55
	2. The IMPERATIVE . . . . .	55
	3. The SUBJUNCTIVE . . . . .	55
	4. The OPTATIVE (properly a division of the Subjunctive) . . . . .	56
	5. <i>Interrogative Forms</i> . . . . .	56
	6. The INFINITIVE, } Participials . . . . .	56
	7. The PARTICIPLES, }	
65.	THE TENSES . . . . .	56
	Time and State jointly expressed . . . . .	56
	Nine possible Tenses. Scheme . . . . .	57

SECT.	PAGE
65. Seven <i>actual</i> Tenses (in common use, six)	57
"Principal" and "Historical" Tenses	57
Arrangement of Tenses. Tenses of <i>λύω</i>	57
66. <b>NUMBERS and PERSONS</b>	57
67. THE TWO CONJUGATIONS.	58
Remark on the Greek and English typical forms	58
68. THE VERBAL STEM—How ascertained: affixes and suffixes	58
69. AUGMENT AND REDUPLICATION	58
(a) <i>Augment</i> in the historical tenses, indicative	58
1. The syllabic augment—with initial consonants.	58
2. The temporal augment—with initial vowels	58
(b) <i>Reduplication</i> in the perfect tenses throughout	58
An initial consonant repeated, with <i>ε</i>	59
An initial vowel lengthened (like temporal augment)	59
(c) Augment and reduplication in compound verbs	59
70. INFLECTIONAL TERMINATIONS.	59
(a) Denoting voice, mood, tense, number, and person	59
(b) Personal endings originally fragments of pronouns	59
Normal forms	59
71. TENSE-CHARACTERISTICS (consonant)	60
Active Future and First Aorist, <i>σ</i>	60
,, Perfect and Pluperfect, <i>κ</i>	60
Passive Future and First Aorist, <i>θ</i>	60
72. MODAL VOWELS	60
Subjunctive—lengthened indicative vowels	60
Optative—diphthongal forms	61
73. VERBAL ADJECTIVES	61
74. PARADIGM OF THE FIRST CONJUGATION: pure uncontracted	61
<i>πιστεύω</i> . Principal parts	61
Conjugation throughout	62
75. All other forms variations of this type	70
<b>Exercise 9. On pure, uncontracted Verbs</b>	70
76. Verbs of the pure uncontracted class	70
77. Possible stem-endings	71
Pure, mute, and liquid verbs	71
78. PURE VERBS. Special Rules	71
(a) The stem-vowels	71
(b) Contraction with <i>α</i> , <i>ε</i> , or <i>ο</i>	71
(c) Contraction confined to Present and Imperfect Tenses	71
(d) Peculiarities of contraction. Compare § 3, <i>f</i>	71
79. PARADIGMS of <i>τιμάω</i> , <i>φιλέω</i> , <i>δηλόω</i> , Present and Imperfect	72
80. Note on remaining Tenses	75
<b>Exercise 10. On pure, contracted Verbs.</b>	75
81. MUTE VERBS. Special Rules	75
82. Stem unaffected by a following vowel	76

SEC.		PAGE
83.	(a) Tense-characteristics (§ 71) and terminations beginning with a consonant modify the stem . . . . .	76
	(b) Rules of modification . . . . .	76
	1. As caused by -σ after the verbal stem . . . . .	76
	2.     „     by -θ     „     „ . . . . .	76
	3.     „     by -τ     „     „ . . . . .	76
	4.     „     by -μ     „     „ . . . . .	76
	5.     „     by -σθ     „     „ . . . . .	77
	6.     „     by -ντ     „     „ . . . . .	77
	7.     „     by -κ     „     „ . . . . .	77
84.	PARADIGMS OF THE MUTE VERBS. Remarks (α, β, γ) . . . . .	77
	Conjugation of τρέβω, ἄγω, πείθω . . . . .	78
85.	Modification of the Present (and Imperfect) . . . . .	81
	(a) The stem of the Present not always the stem of the Verb . . . . .	82
	1. Labial verbal stems, that add τ . . . . .	82
	2. Guttural verbal stems, that change the stem-consonant to σσ or ζ . . . . .	82
	3. Dental verbal stems, that change the stem-consonant to ζ . . . . .	82
	(b) All other tenses formed from the verbal stem . . . . .	82
	(c) Vowels changed to diphthongs in short stem-syllables . . . . .	83
	Here the Future and Perfect formed from the Present stem . . . . .	83
86.	The <i>Secondary Tenses</i> of modified Verbs . . . . .	83
	In these Tenses, the simple verbal stem always appears . . . . .	83
87.	THE SECOND AORIST. . . . .	83
	Conjugated like the Imperfect Indicative (in other moods as Present) . . . . .	83
	Illustrations from φεύγ- (φεύγω), τυπ- (τύπτω) . . . . .	83
	Note on Accentuation . . . . .	83
	Active, Middle, and Passive . . . . .	84
88.	THE SECOND FUTURE (Passive). . . . .	84
	Illustration from τυπ- (τύπτω). . . . .	84
89.	THE SECOND PERFECT (Active). . . . .	85
	Illustration from πραγ- (πράσσω) . . . . .	85
90.	<i>General Rules for the Second Tenses</i> . . . . .	85
	1. In what verbs they do not occur . . . . .	85
	2, 3. Seldom found in First Tenses in the same verb, except in Passive . . . . .	85
	4. First and Second Perfects, Active . . . . .	85
	<b>Exercise 11. On mute Verbs.</b> . . . . .	85
91.	LIQUID VERBS. Special Rules. . . . .	86
	(a) Present stem mostly modified . . . . .	86
	(b) Future Active and Middle, contracted . . . . .	86
	(c) First Aorist Active and Middle . . . . .	86
	(d) Perfect Active, variations. . . . .	87
	(e) Perfect Passive, variations . . . . .	87
92.	PARADIGMS OF LIQUID VERBS. . . . .	87
	ἀγγέλλω, κρίνω, αἰρώ . . . . .	87
	<b>Exercise 12. On liquid Verbs</b> . . . . .	91

SECT.		PAGE
93.	NOTES ON THE TENSES. [ <i>These Sections, to the close of § 99, dealing chiefly with minute variations and seeming irregularities in particular verbs, may be omitted in the first study of the book.</i> ] . . . . .	92
94.	THE PRESENT AND IMPERFECT. I. <i>The Present</i> . . . . .	92
	1-4. Details of modification, as § 85 . . . . .	92
	5. Modifications of pure and impure stems by $\nu$ , $\nu\epsilon$ , $\alpha\nu$ . . . . .	93
	6. Alternative stems, consonant and $\epsilon$ - . . . . .	93
	7. Inchoative forms in $\sigma\kappa$ - or $\iota\sigma\kappa$ - . . . . .	93
	8. Reduplicated stems . . . . .	94
	II. <i>The Imperfect</i> . . . . .	94
	Peculiarities of Augment . . . . .	94
	Double $\rho$ -. Double augment. Attic augment in $\eta$ - . . . . .	94
95.	THE SECOND AORIST, Active and Middle . . . . .	94
	Contains the simple verbal stem . . . . .	94
	(Reduplicated Second Aorist. Change of short stem-vowel) . . . . .	94
	The Vowel Aorist, as of Second Conjugation . . . . .	94
96.	THE FUTURE, Active and Middle . . . . .	95
	(a) Lengthening or otherwise of pure stems . . . . .	95
	(b) The Attic Future of Verbs in $\iota\delta$ - ( $\iota\zeta\omega$ ) . . . . .	95
	(c) The digammated future of verbs in $\epsilon\zeta$ - ( $\acute{\epsilon}\omega$ ) . . . . .	96
	(d) Future in middle form, with active meaning . . . . .	96
97.	THE FIRST AORIST, Active and Middle . . . . .	96
	(a) Connection of Aorist with Future stem . . . . .	96
	(1) In pure and mute ; (2) in liquid verbs . . . . .	96
	(b) Peculiarities of Augment . . . . .	97
	Note on Accentuation . . . . .	97
98.	THE AORISTS AND FUTURES PASSIVE . . . . .	98
	(a) Modified like the Perfect Passive . . . . .	98
	(b) Vowel stem-endings, lengthened, shortened, or with $\sigma$ . . . . .	98
	(c) Transposition of vowel and liquid in short roots . . . . .	98
	(d) Change of a weak vowel into $\alpha$ . . . . .	98
	(e) First and Second Tenses seldom in the same verb . . . . .	98
	Notes on Irregularities of Augment, and on Accentuation . . . . .	98
99.	PERFECT AND PLUPERFECT . . . . .	99
	(a) Variations in reduplication . . . . .	99
	1. $\acute{\epsilon}$ - before a double consonant . . . . .	99
	2. $\epsilon\iota\lambda\eta\phi\alpha$ from $\lambda\alpha\beta$ - ( $\lambda\alpha\mu\beta\acute{\alpha}\nu\omega$ ) . . . . .	99
	3. Double reduplication and augment . . . . .	99
	4. Pluperfect generally omits augment . . . . .	99
	(b) Third person plural Perfect active in $-\alpha\nu$ . . . . .	99
	(c) The Second Perfect active : its special sense . . . . .	99
	(d) The Perfect passive : its peculiarities . . . . .	100
	(e) The Future Perfect passive (or mid.) . . . . .	100
	Note on accentuation . . . . .	100
100.	DEPONENT VERBS . . . . .	100

SECT.		PAGE
100.	Active and Passive, as determined by the Aorist . . . . .	100
101.	<b>IMPERSONAL VERBS</b> . . . . .	101
	Their use . . . . .	101
	List and usual forms of the chief Impersonals . . . . .	101
102.	<b>DEFECTIVE VERBS.</b> . . . . .	101
	Originally caused by redundancy . . . . .	101
103.	PRINCIPAL DEFECTIVE VERBS AND THEIR PARADIGMS . . . . .	102
	<i>αἰρέω, ἔρχομαι, ἐσθίω, ὁράω, τρέχω, φέρω, εἶπον</i> . . . . .	102
	<b>Exercise 13. On the Defective Verbs</b> . . . . .	104
104.	<b>THE SECOND CONJUGATION</b> , or Verbs in -μι . . . . .	104
	The chief peculiarity of these Verbs . . . . .	104
	Future, First Aorist, and Perfect like Verbs in -ω . . . . .	104
105.	Modifications of the Verbal Stem . . . . .	105
	(a) Vowel of a pure stem lengthened . . . . .	105
	(b) Reduplication prefixed . . . . .	105
	(c) The syllable -νν- (-ννν-) affixed . . . . .	105
	Two classes thus formed . . . . .	105
106.	FIRST CLASS—Paradigms in two divisions . . . . .	105
	<i>First Division</i> —regular forms . . . . .	105
107.	PARADIGMS of ἵστημι, τίθημι, δίδωμι . . . . .	106
108.	Remarks on the Paradigms . . . . .	114
	1. First Aorist Active, with -κ- (τίθημι, δίδωμι) . . . . .	114
	2. Peculiarities in augment of ἵστημι . . . . .	114
	3. Active Aorist of ἵστημι—their difference . . . . .	114
	4. The verb στήκω . . . . .	114
109.	<b>List of Verbs in this division</b> . . . . .	114
	A-stems : <i>a.</i> Active ; <i>b.</i> Deponent . . . . .	114
	E-stems : Deponent only . . . . .	115
110.	<i>Second Division</i> —Stems ἐσ- (εἶμι), ἰ- (εἶμι), ἐ- (ἴημι). . . . .	115
	CONJUGATION of εἶμι (εἶναι), <i>to be</i> . . . . .	116
111.	,, εἶμι (ἴεναι), <i>to go</i> . . . . .	117
112.	,, ἴημι in its compound ἀφίημι . . . . .	118
113.	SECOND CLASS—Verbs in -ννμι or -νννμι . . . . .	120
	Remarks . . . . .	120
114.	Paradigms of δείκνυμι and ζώννυμι . . . . .	121
115.	Remarks on Paradigms . . . . .	124
116.	New Testament Verbs like δείκνυμι . . . . .	124
117.	New Testament Verbs like ζώννυμι . . . . .	125
	A-stems. E-stems. O-stems . . . . .	125
	<b>Exercise 14. On the Verbs in -μι</b> . . . . .	126
	<b>Exercise 15. General, on the Verbs</b> (from 2 Thess.) . . . . .	126
	<b>Exercise 16. Short Sentences.</b> . . . . .	127
	i. The Beatitudes . . . . .	127
	ii. Parts of John i. . . . .	128
	iii. Selected Sentences . . . . .	129



## CHAPTER VI.—PREPOSITIONS.

	PAGE
118. <b>THE THREE CASES:</b> general relations of place, etc. . . . .	131
Prepositions extend these relations indefinitely . . . . .	131
They may govern the <i>Genitive</i> , <i>Dative</i> , or <i>Accusative</i> ; one, two, or all . . . . .	131
119. PREPOSITIONS GOVERNING THE GENITIVE ONLY, <i>ἀντί</i> , <i>ἀπό</i> , <i>ἐκ</i> ( <i>ἐξ</i> ), <i>πρό</i>	131
120. PREPOSITIONS GOVERNING THE DATIVE ONLY, <i>ἐν</i> , <i>σύν</i> . . . . .	132
121. PREPOSITIONS GOVERNING THE ACCUSATIVE ONLY, <i>ἀνά</i> , <i>εἰς</i> . . . . .	132
122. PREPOSITIONS GOVERNING THE GENITIVE AND ACCUSATIVE, <i>διά</i> , <i>κατά</i> , <i>μετά</i> , <i>περί</i> , <i>ὑπέρ</i> , <i>ὑπὸ</i> . . . . .	132
123. PREPOSITIONS GOVERNING THE GENITIVE, DATIVE, AND ACCUSATIVE, <i>ἐπί</i> , <i>παρά</i> , <i>πρός</i> . . . . .	132
124. <b>Synoptical Table of the Prepositions</b> . . . . .	133
125. Note on the various meanings of the Prepositions . . . . .	134

## CHAPTER VII.—ADVERBS.

126. ADVERBS IN THEIR ORIGINAL FORM, FROM SUBSTANTIVES . . . . .	135
( <i>a</i> ) As an Accusative Noun, Adjective, or Pronoun . . . . .	135
( <i>b</i> ) As a Dative . . . . .	135
( <i>c</i> ) As a Genitive . . . . .	135
( <i>d</i> ) As a Preposition, with its Case . . . . .	135
( <i>e</i> ) Old Case-endings in <i>-θεν</i> , <i>-θι</i> , and <i>-δε</i> . . . . .	135
127. ADVERBS FROM ADJECTIVES (in <i>-ως</i> ) . . . . .	135
128. Comparison of Adverbs . . . . .	136
129. PRONOMINAL ADVERBS. <b>Table, with Correlatives</b> . . . . .	136
130. NUMERAL ADVERBS (in <i>-ις</i> , <i>-κις</i> , or <i>-ακις</i> ) . . . . .	137
131. ADVERBS FROM VERBS . . . . .	137
Ancient verbal forms, <i>δεῦρο</i> , <i>δεῦτε</i> . . . . .	137
Derivatives from Verbs in <i>-ίζω</i> . . . . .	138
132. ADVERBS FROM PREPOSITIONS (or in <i>-ω</i> ) . . . . .	138
133. PREPOSITIVE ADVERBS ("improper Prepositions"). <b>List</b> . . . . .	138
134. NEGATIVE ADVERBS, <i>οὐ</i> and <i>μή</i> . . . . .	139

## CHAPTER VIII.—CONJUNCTIONS AND OTHER PARTICLES.

135. Meaning of the word <i>Particles</i> . . . . .	140
136. Classification of Conjunctive Particles . . . . .	140
1. Conjunctions of ANNEXATION . . . . .	140
2.     "     COMPARISON . . . . .	140
3.     "     DISJUNCTION . . . . .	140
4.     "     ANTITHESIS . . . . .	141
5.     "     CONDITION . . . . .	141

SECT.		PAGE
136.	6. Conjunctions of CAUSE . . . . .	141
	7. „ INFERENCE . . . . .	141
	8. „ INTENTION or RESULT . . . . .	141
137.	(a) Particles of EMPHASIS, γέ, δὴ, -περ, -τοι . . . . .	141
	(b) Particles of INTERROGATION, εἰ, ἤ, ἄρα . . . . .	141
138.	INTERJECTIONS . . . . .	141
	(a) Natural instinctive sounds . . . . .	141
	(b) The Interjection ἰδε, ἰδοῦ, behold ! . . . . .	142

## CHAPTER IX.—ON THE FORMATION OF WORDS.

[*Chapters IX., X., XI., XII., may be omitted in the first reading of the book.*]

139.	1. <b>ROOTS</b> , with primary, secondary, tertiary, etc., formations . . . . .	143
	2. Classes of Words . . . . .	143
	3. Modification of Stem-endings . . . . .	144
140.	Classes of <b>SUBSTANTIVES</b> . . . . .	144
	(a) <i>First Declension</i> . . . . .	144
	1. Masculine, in -της . . . . .	144
	2. Feminine, in -ία, -οσύνη . . . . .	144
	(b) <i>Second Declension</i> . . . . .	144
	1. Masculine, in -μός . . . . .	144
	2. Neuter, in -τρον, -ιον (-άριον, -ίδιον) . . . . .	144
	3. Masculine and Feminine Diminutives, -ισκος, -ισκη . . . . .	145
	(c) <i>Third Declension</i> . . . . .	145
	1. Masculine, -εύς, -τήρ, -τωρ . . . . .	145
	2. Feminine, -σις, -της . . . . .	145
	3. Neuter, -μα, -ος . . . . .	145
141.	<b>Scheme of Terminations of Derivative Nouns</b> . . . . .	145
142.	Classes of <b>ADJECTIVES</b> . . . . .	146
	1. <i>First Form</i> . . . . .	146
	(a) In -ις, (-ιᾶ), -ιον . . . . .	146
	(b) In -ικός, -ή, -ον . . . . .	147
	(c) In -ῖνος, -ή, -όν . . . . .	147
	(So -εος, contr., -ους, -ουν) . . . . .	147
	(d) In -ρός, -ρά, -ρόν . . . . .	147
	(e) In -(σ)ῖμος, -ον . . . . .	147
	(f) Verbals in -τός and -τέος . . . . .	147
	2. <i>Second and Third Forms</i> . . . . .	147
	(a) In -ης, -ες . . . . .	147
	(b) In -μων, -μων . . . . .	147
143.	<b>Scheme of Terminations of Derivative Adjectives</b> . . . . .	148
144.	Classes of <b>VERBS</b> . . . . .	148
	(a) Verbs from subst. or adj. roots ("denominative") . . . . .	148
	Their principal terminations, . . . . .	148

SECT.		PAGE
144.	(b) Verbs from verbal stems—"Inceptives," "Frequentatives" (or emphatic), "Causatives," etc. . . . .	149
145.	General Remark on Derivation . . . . .	149

## CHAPTER X.—ON THE FORMATION OF COMPOUND WORDS.

146.	"Parathetic" and "Synthetic" Compounds . . . . .	150
147.	PARATHETIC COMPOUNDS . . . . .	150
	The former element a Particle . . . . .	150
	(a) Significance of the <i>Preposition</i> in Composition . . . . .	151
	(b)         ,, <i>Adverbs</i> ,, . . . . .	151
	(c)         ,, <i>Inseparable Particles</i> in Composition . . . . .	151
	(a, Compound Nouns and Adjectives generally from Verbs) . . . . .	152
	(b, c, Adverbs and Inseparable Particles not found with Verbs, except d-) . . . . .	152
	(d, Combination of Prepositions) . . . . .	152
148.	SYNTHETIC COMPOUNDS . . . . .	152
	The former element a Noun or Verb . . . . .	152
	Connective vowels -o-, -i- . . . . .	152
	Compound Verbs usually from Compound Nouns . . . . .	152
	The chief significance in the latter element . . . . .	153
	Illustrations . . . . .	153
149.	<b>Derivation and Composition illustrated</b> by the Variations and Combinations in the New Testament of the root <i>κρi</i> , verbal stem <i>κρiv-</i> , <i>to separate, to judge</i> . . . . .	153

## CHAPTER XI.—FOREIGN WORDS IN NEW TESTAMENT GREEK.

150.	<b>Languages of Palestine: HEBREW</b> . . . . .	155
	What was the "Hebrew tongue" in New Testament times? . . . . .	155
	Question as to St. Matthew's Gospel . . . . .	155
151.	The introduction of GREEK . . . . .	155
	Various influences contributing to this . . . . .	155
	Greek the usual language of our Lord . . . . .	156
	The Dialect of Galilee . . . . .	156
	Difference of New Testament writers in style . . . . .	156
152.	Infusion of LATIN . . . . .	156
	Influences contributory to this . . . . .	156
	Classes of words derived from Latin . . . . .	156
153.	<b>Aramaic (Hebrew) Words and Phrases</b> . . . . .	156
	(a) Assimilated words . . . . .	157
	β) Indeclinable words . . . . .	157
	1. Proper Names . . . . .	157
	2. Common Nouns . . . . .	157
	3. Special Phrases . . . . .	158

SECT.		PAGE
154.	<b>Latin Words</b> . . . . .	158
	(a) Names of Coins . . . . .	158
	(b) Judicial terms . . . . .	159
	(c) Military terms . . . . .	159
	(d) Political terms . . . . .	159
	(e) Articles of Dress . . . . .	159
	(f) General terms . . . . .	159

## CHAPTER XII.—NEW TESTAMENT PROPER NAMES.

155.	These Names from the three languages (Chapter XI.) . . . . .	160
156.	<b>HEBREW NAMES</b> . . . . .	160
	(a) Indeclinable Hebrew forms . . . . .	160
	(b) Indeclinable and assimilated . . . . .	160
	(c) Assimilated, Hebrew, <i>-ah</i> ; Greek, <i>-as</i> . . . . .	161
	(d) Later forms, Hebrew, <i>-a</i> ; Greek, <i>-âs</i> . . . . .	161
157.	<b>DOUBLE NAMES</b> . . . . .	161
	(a) Greek the <i>translation</i> of the Hebrew . . . . .	161
	(b) „ <i>vocal imitation</i> „ . . . . .	161
	(c) Name and Surname . . . . .	161
	1. The latter being <i>characteristic</i> . . . . .	161
	2. „ <i>patronymic</i> . . . . .	161
	3. „ <i>local</i> . . . . .	161
	(d) Different names of the same man among Jews and Greeks . . . . .	162
158.	<b>GREEK NAMES</b> . . . . .	162
	(a) Pure Greek—"The Seven" . . . . .	162
	(b) Contracted forms . . . . .	162
159.	<b>LATIN NAMES</b> . . . . .	162
	(a) In connection with Rome . . . . .	162
	(b) Names of the Emperors . . . . .	163
	(c) The name of "Paul" . . . . .	163
	(d) Contractions, " <i>Luke</i> ," " <i>Silas</i> ," etc. . . . .	163

## P A R T III.

## SYNTAX.

## CHAPTER I.—CONSTRUCTION OF THE SIMPLE SENTENCE.

160.	A knowledge of the general laws of Grammar necessary . . . . .	164
161.	The SENTENCE—as consisting of Propositions . . . . .	164
162.	The PROPOSITION—Subject and Predicate . . . . .	164
163.	The SUBJECT—a Substantive or its equivalent . . . . .	164

SECT.		PAGE
164.	The PREDICATE—a Substantive, Adjective, or equivalent	164
165.	The COPULA—a tense of the verb “to be”	164
166.	Omission of the Copula	165
167.	The VERBAL PREDICATE	165
168.	The Substantive verb as Predicate	165
169.	Omission of the Pronominal Subject	166
	Its insertion for emphasis. Examples	166
170.	Omitted in third person plural, “generalised assertion”	166
171.	Omitted in third person singular, “impersonals”	166
172.	The Nominative the case of the Subject	167
	<b>THE FIRST CONCORD</b>	167
173.	Exceptions, (1) Neuter plural Nominative with singular Verb	167
174.	Variations in this idiom, <i>a, b, c, d</i>	167
175.	(2) “Rational Concord.” Collective singular Subject with plural Verb, <i>a, b</i>	168
176.	Combined Nominatives, <i>a, b</i>	169
177.	Agreement of substantival Predicate with the Subject	170
	<b>Law of Apposition</b>	170
178.	Agreement of adjective Predicate with the Subject	170
	<b>THE SECOND CONCORD</b>	170
179.	“Rational Concord,” (1) Collective singular Subject with plural Adjective	170
180.	(2) Masculine or Feminine Subject with Neuter Adjective	171
181.	<i>Rule for Copulative Verbs</i>	171
182.	Complements of the simple Sentence	171
183.	Extension of the Subject	171
184.	„ Substantival Predicate	172
185.	„ Adjective-Predicate	172
186.	„ Verbal Predicate	172
187.	Accessory Clauses	172
188.	Co-ordinate	172
189.	Subordinate	172
190.	Methods of introducing subordinate Clauses	172
191.	Difficulties in the resolution of Sentences—illustrated	173
192.	<i>Rule for the resolution of Compound Sentences</i>	173

## CHAPTER II.—THE ARTICLE.

	<b>Construction of the Article</b>	174
193.	Employed with Substantives; by the Second Concord	174
194.	Originally a Demonstrative Pronoun	174
195.	Shown by its often standing alone	174
196.	By its being followed by a Genitive	175
197.	Or by a Preposition and its Case	175
198.	By its construction with Adverbs	175

SECT.		PAGE
199.	The Article with ADJECTIVES . . . . .	176
200.	With PARTICIPLES . . . . .	176
	Often equivalent to a Relative and Verb . . . . .	176
201.	With the INFINITIVE, in all the Cases . . . . .	177
	Note on the verbal in <i>-ing</i> (Lat., <i>gerundū</i> ) . . . . .	177
202.	With PHRASES OR SENTENCES . . . . .	177
203.	With PRONOUNS. (See § 220) . . . . .	177
204.	<i>Substantivised Words or Phrases</i> . . . . .	178
	<b>Significance of the Article:</b> its insertion or omission . . . . .	178
205.	The Article strictly definite . . . . .	178
206.	The Article marks the <i>Subject</i> . . . . .	178
207.	Definition of the Predicate by the Article . . . . .	179
208.	(The Article may be omitted before words already defined) . . . . .	179
209.	Use of the Article <i>with Monadic Substantives</i> . . . . .	179
210.	<i>For individual emphasis</i> . . . . .	180
211.	<i>In collective expressions</i> . . . . .	180
212.	<i>To make renewed mention</i> . . . . .	181
	(This sometimes <i>implicit</i> ) . . . . .	181
213.	Passages where the Article, omitted in the A.V., should be supplied from the original . . . . .	181
214.	The Article with ABSTRACT SUBSTANTIVES, <i>a, b, c</i> . . . . .	183
215.	The Article as an UNEMPHATIC POSSESSIVE . . . . .	185
216.	The Article with PROPER NAMES . . . . .	185
217.	With the <b>Divine Names</b> . . . . .	186
	(a) Θεός, <i>God</i> . . . . .	186
	(b) Κύριος, <i>Lord</i> . . . . .	187
	(c) υἱὸς Θεοῦ, <i>Son of God</i> . . . . .	187
	(d) Ἰησοῦς, <i>Jesus</i> . . . . .	188
	(e) Χριστός, <i>Anointed, Christ</i> . . . . .	188
	(f) Πνεῦμα (ἅγιον), <i>Holy Spirit</i> . . . . .	189
218.	<i>Monadic Nouns</i> (as Proper Names) without the Article . . . . .	190
219.	<i>Prepositional Phrases</i> without the Article . . . . .	190
220.	The Article with DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUNS . . . . .	191
221.	Omitted with ἕκαστος, τοσοῦτος . . . . .	192
222.	The Article with αὐτός, <i>the same</i> . . . . .	192
223.	With POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS . . . . .	192
224.	With πᾶς, πάντες, <i>all</i> . . . . .	192
225.	With ὅλος, <i>whole</i> . . . . .	194
226.	With ἄλλος, ἕτερος, <i>other</i> . . . . .	194
227.	With πολύ, <i>much</i> ; πολλοί, <i>many</i> . . . . .	194
228.	With the Nominative for Vocative . . . . .	195
229.	The Article <i>separated from its Substantive</i> by qualifying words . . . . .	196
	(a) A Preposition with its Case . . . . .	196
	(b) An Adverb . . . . .	196
230.	<i>Repeated after its Substantive for emphasis</i> . . . . .	196
	(b) Sometimes where no Article precedes . . . . .	197

SECT.		PAGE
231.	The Article with PARTICIPLES . . . . .	197
232.	The Article in Enumerations . . . . .	198
	(a) <i>Combined Enumeration</i> . . . . .	198
	(b) <i>Separate Enumeration</i> . . . . .	198
233.	The <i>Omission</i> of the Article marks Indefiniteness . . . . .	199
234.	The Article with νόμος, law—illustrations . . . . .	200

## CHAPTER III.—THE NOUN SUBSTANTIVE.

235.	<b>NUMBER</b> . . . . .	202
	Singular and Plural used as in other languages . . . . .	202
236.	Singular Nouns for a whole class . . . . .	202
237.	Nouns predicated of several individuals (as σῶμα, καρδιά) . . . . .	202
238.	Abstract Substantives in the Plural . . . . .	202
239.	The Plural, by a speaker of himself . . . . .	202
240.	Plural to denote a single agent or object . . . . .	203
	(a) As viewing it in <i>its constituent parts</i> . . . . .	203
	(b) As <i>generalising</i> the statement, (1), (2) . . . . .	204
	<b>CASE</b> . . . . .	205
	THE NOMINATIVE AND VOCATIVE . . . . .	205
241.	Nominative as Subject and Predicate . . . . .	205
242.	The <i>Suspended Nominative</i> . . . . .	205
243.	The <i>Elliptical Nominative</i> . . . . .	206
	(a) After ἰδοῦ, <i>behold!</i> . . . . .	206
	(b) „ ὄνομα, <i>name</i> . . . . .	206
	(c) The phrase, ὁ ὢν καὶ ὁ ἦν καὶ ὁ ἐρχόμενος . . . . .	206
244.	Nominative for Vocative: an elliptical usage . . . . .	206
245.	The Vocative, with and without ὦ . . . . .	207
	THE GENITIVE . . . . .	207
246.	Primarily signifying <i>motion from</i> . . . . .	207
247.	Modifications, 1–7 . . . . .	207
248.	I. Genitive of <b>origin</b> . . . . .	208
	After Substantives, to denote the <i>source</i> or <i>author</i> . . . . .	208
249.	After Verbs of <i>sense</i> or <i>mental affection</i> . . . . .	208
	(a) Of sense, as <i>hearing, taste, touch</i> . . . . .	208
	(b) Of affection, as <i>desire, caring for, despising</i> . . . . .	209
	(c) Of <i>remembrance</i> and <i>forgetting</i> . . . . .	210
250.	After Verbs of <i>accusation, condemnation, etc.</i> . . . . .	210
251.	After Verbs and Adjectives of <i>plenty, want, fulness, etc.</i> . . . . .	210
252.	II. Genitive of <b>separation</b> or <b>ablation</b> . . . . .	210
	After Verbs of <i>removal, difference, hindrance, etc.</i> . . . . .	210
253.	Genitive of <i>comparison</i> . . . . .	211
	After Verbs . . . . .	211
	After Adjectives in the Comparative Degree . . . . .	211

SECT.		PAGE
254.	III. Genitive of <b>Possession</b> . . . . .	212
	After Substantives "the Possessive Case" . . . . .	212
255.	The Genitive Personal Pronouns so used . . . . .	212
256.	Words of kindred, etc., omitted before Possessive, 1—7 . . . . .	212
257.	Attributive Possessive Genitive . . . . .	213
258.	Special Possessive phrases . . . . .	213
259.	The Genitive of Apposition . . . . .	214
260.	POSITION OF THE GENITIVE . . . . .	215
	(a) Generally <i>after</i> the governing Substantive . . . . .	215
	(b) Instances where the Genitive <i>precedes</i> . . . . .	215
261.	IV. Genitive of <b>Partition</b> . . . . .	215
262.	After Partitive <i>Adjectives</i> . . . . .	216
	<i>Pronouns</i> . . . . .	216
	<i>Numerals</i> . . . . .	216
	<i>Superlatives</i> . . . . .	216
263.	After Verbs of <i>partaking</i> . . . . .	216
264.	After Verbs of <i>taking hold of, attaining, etc.</i> . . . . .	216
	Different usage of Active and Middle . . . . .	217
265.	After <i>Adverbs of time</i> . . . . .	217
266.	Partitive Phrases of Time or Place . . . . .	217
267.	Partitive Genitive after Verb <i>to be</i> . . . . .	217
268.	V. Genitive of <b>Object</b> . . . . .	218
	May be expressed by various Prepositions: Illustrations . . . . .	218
269.	Phrases that may be Possessive or Objective . . . . .	218
270.	VI. Genitive of <b>Relation</b> . . . . .	219
	<i>In respect of</i> , as shown by the context: Illustrations . . . . .	219
271.	After <i>Adjectives</i> , generally . . . . .	220
272.	Specially after Adjectives of <i>worthiness, fitness, etc.</i> . . . . .	220
273.	Genitive of <i>price, penalty, etc.</i> . . . . .	221
274.	Genitives of different relations with the same Substantive . . . . .	221
275.	VII. The <b>Genitive Absolute</b> . . . . .	221
	Originally <i>causal</i> . . . . .	222
	THE DATIVE . . . . .	222
276.	Primarily signifying <i>juxtaposition</i> . . . . .	222
	Modifications, 1—4 . . . . .	222
277.	I. Dative of <b>Association</b> . . . . .	223
	(a) After Verbs of <i>intercourse, companionship, etc.</i> . . . . .	223
	(b) After Verbs and Adjectives of <i>likeness, fitness, etc.</i> . . . . .	223
	(c) After the Substantive Verb: to express <i>property</i> . . . . .	223
	Verb sometimes omitted . . . . .	223
278.	II. Dative of <b>Transmission</b> . . . . .	223
	(a) After Verbs of <i>giving</i> (Indirect Object) . . . . .	223
	(b) ,, <i>information, command, etc.</i> . . . . .	224
	(c) ,, <i>succour, assistance, etc.</i> . . . . .	224
	(d) ,, <i>mental affection, obedience, faith</i> . . . . .	224
	Distinction from Genitive, . . . . .	224



SECT.		PAGE
379.	III. Dative of <b>Reference</b> . . . . .	225
	May be expressed in English by <i>for</i> (or <i>against</i> ) . . . . .	225
280.	IV. Dative of <b>Accessory Circumstance</b> . . . . .	226
	(a) Expressing the <i>modes of an action</i> . . . . .	226
	(b) Sometimes repeating the notion of the Verb (Hebraism) . . . . .	226
	(c) Dative of <i>cause</i> or <i>motive</i> . . . . .	226
	(d) „ <i>instrument</i> . . . . .	227
	Dative after <i>χράσθαι, to use</i> . . . . .	227
	(e) Dative of <i>agent</i> (rare) . . . . .	227
	(f) „ <i>sphere</i> , that in which a quality inheres . . . . .	228
	(g) „ <i>time</i> . . . . .	228
	(1) A space of time : <i>for</i> —(2) A point of time : <i>at, on</i> . . . . .	228
281.	THE ACCUSATIVE . . . . .	229
	Primarily signifying <i>motion towards</i> . . . . .	229
	Hence used as the <b>Object of Transitive Verbs</b> . . . . .	229
	(a) Verbs intransitive in English, transitive in Greek . . . . .	229
	(b) The same Verbs sometimes transitive and intransitive. . . . .	230
	(c) Especially those denoting faculty . . . . .	230
	(d) The direct Object omitted after certain Verbs . . . . .	230
282.	The <i>internal Object</i> of Verbs, or “cognate Accusative” . . . . .	230
283.	Accusative of <i>Definition</i> . . . . .	231
	Dative of Accessory more common . . . . .	231
284.	The <i>Double Accusative</i> , “nearer” and “remoter Object” . . . . .	231
285.	The Accusative as <b>Subject of Infinitive Verbs</b> . . . . .	232
	To be rendered as Nominative with <i>that</i> . . . . .	232
	Generally different from the Subject of the principal Verb . . . . .	233
	Accusative with the substantivised Infinitive . . . . .	233
286.	Accusative of <b>Time</b> and <b>Space</b> . . . . .	233
	(a) Space : <i>Distance</i> . . . . .	233
	(b) Time : (1) a <i>Point</i> ; (2) <i>Duration</i> . . . . .	233
287.	The Accusative in <i>Elliptical</i> , or unusual constructions . . . . .	234
288.	<b>THE CASES WITH PREPOSITIONS</b> . . . . .	234
	Two elements to be considered, the <i>Preposition</i> and the <i>Case</i> . . . . .	234
	Variety of combinations hence resulting . . . . .	234
289.	<i>Interchangeable</i> Prepositions : not identical . . . . .	235
290.	Note on the correspondence of words in different languages . . . . .	235
	Table of Prepositions . . . . .	236
	PREPOSITIONS WITH THE GENITIVE ONLY . . . . .	236
291.	<i>ἀντί, over against</i> : opposition as an equivalent . . . . .	236
	Hence, <i>instead of, for</i> ; adverbial phrase, <i>ἀνθ’ ὧν</i> . . . . .	236
292.	<i>ἀπό, from the exterior</i> . . . . .	236
	Hence, (1) <i>from</i> ; (2) <i>of</i> ; (3) <i>on account of</i> ; (4) elliptical use ;	
	(5) use with Adverbs. . . . .	236
293.	<i>ἐκ, ἐξ, from the interior</i> . . . . .	237
	Hence, (1) <i>out of</i> ; (2) <i>from</i> ; (3) <i>by</i> ; (4) <i>made of</i> ; (5) <i>belonging to</i> ;	
	(6) <i>springing from</i> ; (7) temporal use . . . . .	237

SECT.		PAGE
294.	πρό, <i>in front of</i> . . . . .	238
	Hence, <i>before</i> in (1) time ; (2) place ; (3) degree . . . . .	238
	PREPOSITIONS WITH THE DATIVE ONLY . . . . .	239
295.	ἐν, <i>in</i> . . . . .	239
	Hence, (1) <i>in</i> , of place ; (2) <i>among</i> ; (3) “the ἐν of investiture ;” (4) in “the sphere ;” (5) special uses, <i>by</i> ; (6) adverbial phrases ; (7) temporal use ; (8) “constructio prægnaus” . . . . .	239
296.	σύν, <i>in conjunction with</i> (co-operation) . . . . .	241
	Hence, <i>with</i> , <i>together with</i> (beside) . . . . .	241
	PREPOSITIONS WITH THE ACCUSATIVE ONLY . . . . .	242
297.	ἀνά, <i>up to, up by</i> . . . . .	242
	Only in special phrases in the New Testament . . . . .	242
298.	εἰς, <i>to the interior</i> . . . . .	242
	Hence (1) of place, <i>into</i> ; (2) <i>unto, to</i> ; (3) <i>towards</i> , against ; (4) <i>in</i> <i>order to, for</i> ; (5) <i>into</i> , a state ; (6) <i>for, as</i> , of equivalence ; (7) of time, <i>during</i> , or <i>up to</i> ; (8) “constructio prægnaus” . . . . .	242
	PREPOSITIONS WITH THE GENITIVE AND ACCUSATIVE . . . . .	245
299.	διά, <i>through</i> . . . . .	245
	α. Genitive : (1) <i>through</i> , of place ; (2) of agency ; (3) of time, <i>during</i> or <i>after</i> . . . . .	246
	β. Accusative : <i>on account of</i> . . . . .	247
300.	κατά, <i>down</i> . . . . .	248
	α. Genitive : (1) <i>down from</i> ; (2) <i>against</i> ; (3) <i>by</i> ; (4) <i>throughout</i> , as Accusative . . . . .	248
	β. Accusative : (1) <i>throughout</i> ; (2) <i>over against</i> ; (3) <i>at the time of</i> ; (4) distributive use ; (5) <i>according to</i> ; (6) adverbial phrases . . . . .	248
301.	μετά, <i>in association with</i> . . . . .	250
	α. Genitive : (1) <i>with, among</i> ; (2) <i>together with</i> ; (3) “with and on behalf of” . . . . .	250
	β. Accusative : <i>after</i> (beyond) . . . . .	250
302.	περί, <i>around</i> . . . . .	250
	α. Genitive : <i>about, concerning</i> . . . . .	250
	β. Accusative : (1) <i>around</i> ; (2) <i>about</i> , of time ; (3) <i>about</i> , in reference to . . . . .	251
303.	ὑπέρ, <i>over</i> . . . . .	251
	α. Genitive : (1) <i>on behalf of</i> ; (2) <i>for the sake of</i> ; (3) <i>in reference</i> <i>to</i> . . . . .	251
	β. Accusative : <i>beyond, above</i> . . . . .	253
304.	ὑπό, <i>under</i> . . . . .	253
	α. Genitive : <i>by</i> , of the Agent . . . . .	253
	β. Accusative : (1) <i>under</i> ; (2) <i>close upon</i> . . . . .	253
	PREPOSITIONS WITH THE GENITIVE, DATIVE, AND ACCUSATIVE . . . . .	254
305.	ἐπί, <i>upon</i> . . . . .	254
	α. Genitive : (1) <i>on</i> , of basis ; (2) <i>over</i> , of superintendence ; (3) <i>upon</i> , fig. ; (4) <i>before</i> ; (5) <i>in the time of</i> ; (6) “constructio prægnaus” . . . . .	254

SECT.		PAGE
305.	(ἐπί) β. Dative : (1) <i>on</i> , of basis ; (2) <i>over</i> , of superintendence ; (3) <i>upon</i> , fig. ; (4) <i>in addition to</i> ; (5) “constructio prægnaus” . . . . .	255
	γ. Accusative : (1) <i>upon</i> , motion implied ; (2) <i>over</i> ; (3) <i>to</i> (for, against) ; (4) <i>with regard to</i> ; (5) <i>up to</i> , of quantity ; (6) <i>during</i> , of time . . . . .	256
306.	παρά, <i>beside</i> . . . . .	258
	α. Genitive : <i>from</i> , of persons only . . . . .	258
	β. Dative : (1) <i>with</i> , <i>near</i> ; (2) in the <i>esteem</i> or <i>power</i> of . . . . .	258
	γ. Accusative : (1) <i>by</i> , <i>near</i> ; (2) <i>contrary to</i> ; (3) <i>above</i> ; (4) consequence . . . . .	259
307.	πρός, <i>towards</i> . . . . .	259
	α. Genitive : <i>conducive to</i> . . . . .	259
	β. Dative : <i>near</i> . . . . .	260
	γ. Accusative : (1) <i>to</i> ; (2) <i>with</i> ; (3) mental direction ; (4) estimate ; (5) intention . . . . .	260
	ON THE INTERCHANGE OF CERTAIN PREPOSITIONS . . . . .	261
308.	Mutual approach in meaning ; real distinction . . . . .	261
309.	Interchange of διά with ἐκ, ἀπό, ἐν ( <i>eis</i> , ἐπί, κατά) . . . . .	261
310.	Interchange of ἐκ and ἀπό . . . . .	262
311.	“ ἐν and the simple Dative . . . . .	263
312.	“ <i>eis</i> with πρós, ἐπί, and Dative (also ἐν) . . . . .	263
	Note on 2 Cor. iv. 17 . . . . .	264
313.	“ περί with διά and ὑπέρ . . . . .	265
314.	Repetition or otherwise of Prepositions governing several words . . . . .	265
	Note on Verbs compounded with Prepositions . . . . .	266

## CHAPTER IV. ADJECTIVES.

315.	<b>SECOND CONCORD</b> , re-stated . . . . .	267
316.	Omission of Substantives . . . . .	267
	Occasional ambiguities . . . . .	267
	List of Substantives frequently omitted . . . . .	267
317.	“ Rational Concord ” in Number and Gender . . . . .	268
318.	Adjectives referring to several Substantives . . . . .	269
319.	Adjectives in adverbial relations . . . . .	269
	<b>The Degrees of Comparison</b> . . . . .	270
	THE COMPARATIVE . . . . .	270
320.	Followed by a Genitive of Object . . . . .	270
321.	Or by ἤ, <i>than</i> , as a Conjunction . . . . .	270
	Employed in special cases 1, 2, 3 . . . . .	270
	Omitted before Numerals after <i>more</i> , <i>less</i> . . . . .	271
	(μᾶλλον) ἤ after the Positive, sometimes after a Substantive or Verb. . . . .	271
322.	Comparative strengthened by ὑπέρ or παρά . . . . .	272
	Emphatic Comparatives, as in § 47 . . . . .	272

SECT.		PAGE
323.	Comparative without expressed Object . . . . .	272
	(1) Where the context supplies it . . . . .	272
	(2) Where the Comparative is a familiar phrase . . . . .	272
	(3) Where the Object may be supplied mentally . . . . .	272
	THE SUPERLATIVE . . . . .	273
324.	General significance . . . . .	273
325.	Emphatic Superlatives . . . . .	274
	Followed by <i>πάντων</i> , preceded by <i>ὡς, ὅτι</i> . . . . .	274
326.	Use of <i>πρῶτος</i> . . . . .	274
327.	Hebraistic Superlatives . . . . .	274
	(1) By Preposition <i>ἐν</i> after simple Adjective . . . . .	274
	(2) By Adjective repeated in the Genitive . . . . .	274
	Other so-called Hebraisms to be rejected . . . . .	275
	<b>The Numerals</b> . . . . .	275
328.	Special uses of the Cardinal <i>εἰς, one</i> . . . . .	275
	(1) As an Indefinite Pronoun (Indefinite Article) . . . . .	275
	(2) For the Correlatives, <i>one ... other</i> . . . . .	275
	(3) Its proper Negative combined with the Predicate . . . . .	275
	(4) Ordinal <i>first</i> instead of it . . . . .	276
329.	Adverbial Particles with Numerals . . . . .	276
330.	Omission of Names of Quantity after Numerals . . . . .	276
331.	The Ordinals in Enumerations. . . . .	276

## CHAPTER V.—THE PRONOUNS.

	<b>The Personal Pronouns</b> . . . . .	277
332.	Subject to the rules for Substantives . . . . .	277
	Omission of Pronominal Subject . . . . .	277
333.	Possessive Genitive of Pronouns instead of the Adjective . . . . .	277
	Possessive Adjective Pronoun instead of the Genitive . . . . .	277
334.	Redundant or repeated Personal Pronoun . . . . .	278
335.	Use of <i>αὐτός, self</i> , in apposition . . . . .	278
	As a Nominative, always emphatic . . . . .	278
	[The reflexive <i>ἐαυτοῦ</i> for the Second Person . . . . .	279
	„ <i>ἐαυτῶν</i> for First and Second] . . . . .	279
	“Rational Concord,” with <i>αὐτός</i> —Gender—Number . . . . .	279
	<b>The Possessive Pronouns</b> . . . . .	280
336.	Their various uses exemplified . . . . .	280
	In apposition with a Genitive Substantive . . . . .	280
337.	Unemphatic Possessive Pronouns by the Article . . . . .	280
	Emphatic Possessive Pronouns by <i>ἴδιος, own</i> . . . . .	280
	<b>The Demonstrative Pronouns.</b> . . . .	281
338.	Use of <i>οὗτος, this</i> (near), and <i>ἐκεῖνος, that</i> . . . . .	281
339.	Use of <i>ὅδε, this</i> (here) . . . . .	281

SECT.		PAGE
340.	Exceptions to the ordinary use of οὗτος, ἐκεῖνος.	281
	ἐκεῖνος, the <i>Emphatic Demonstrative</i> .	282
341.	Emphatic (or redundant) Demonstrative Constructions	282
342.	Special uses of τοῦτο, ταῦτα	282
	<b>The Relative Pronoun</b>	283
343.	Agreement of the Relative. <b>THE THIRD CONCORD</b>	283
344.	A clause as Neuter Antecedent	283
345.	"Rational Concord" with the Relative—Gender—Number	283
346.	<i>Attraction</i>	284
	(a) Attraction of the Relative to the Predicate	284
	(b) Attraction of the Relative to the Antecedent	284
	<i>Inverse Attraction</i> (transposed Antecedent)	285
347.	Demonstrative Antecedent omitted.	285
348.	αὐτός complementary to the Relative (a Hebraism)	286
349.	The <i>Compound Relative</i> , ὅστις, strictly Indefinite	286
	But also <i>explicative</i> , and <i>logical</i>	287
	Used often with Proper Names	287
	<b>The Interrogative and Indefinite Pronouns</b>	287
350.	Various uses of the Interrogative, τίς;	287
	(1) Simply, with or without a Substantive	287
	(2) Elliptically, as ἵνα τί; <i>why?</i>	287
	(3) Adverbially, <i>how!</i>	288
	(4) In alternative questions	288
351.	The Interrogative in indirect questions	288
352.	Transition from the Interrogative to the Indefinite	288
	Uses of the Indefinite, τις	289
	(1) Simply, with or without a Substantive	289
	(2) Emphatically, <i>somebody!</i>	289
	(3) As "a kind of"	289
	(4) "Some" approximately with numbers	290
	(5) In alternative expressions	290
	(6) [Negatives of τις, i.e., οὐδεὶς, μηδεὶς]	290

## CHAPTER VI.—THE VERB.

	<b>VOICE</b>	291
353.	Voice: the distinction in <i>form</i> and <i>significance</i>	291
354.	<b>THE ACTIVE VOICE</b>	291
	Intransitives used as Transitives	291
	Variations in meaning according to form (ἵστημι)	292
	Special use of ἔχω	292
355.	<b>THE MIDDLE VOICE</b> : its three senses	292
	1. <i>Reflexive</i> (the "Accusative Middle")	292
	But Pronouns generally employed with Active	292

SECT.		PAGE
355.	2. <i>Appropriative</i> (the "Dative Middle"). . . . .	293
	The direct Object of the Active retained . . . . .	293
	3. <i>Causative</i> (nearly resembling the Passive) . . . . .	293
	This meaning sometimes becomes reciprocal . . . . .	294
356.	THE PASSIVE VOICE . . . . .	294
	Its Subject. The primary or secondary Object of the Active . . . . .	294
	(In the latter case, the primary Object remains in the Acc.) . . . . .	295
357.	Agent after Passive Verbs . . . . .	295
358.	Frequent difficulty of distinguishing Passive and Middle . . . . .	295
	THE MOODS AND TENSES . . . . .	296
359.	Significance of the <i>Moods</i> . . . . .	296
	The <b>Indicative</b> —Declarative and Interrogative . . . . .	296
360.	The <i>Tenses</i> . The six employed (the three others essential to completeness) "Historical" and "principal" Tenses . . . . .	296
361.	THE PRESENT TENSE . . . . .	297
	General meaning, and Illustrations . . . . .	297
	(a) A state as now existing, a process . . . . .	297
	(b) An habitual or usual act . . . . .	297
	(c) Past time, in vivid narration (the Historical Present) . . . . .	297
	(d) Certain futurity . . . . .	298
362.	THE IMPERFECT TENSE . . . . .	298
	General meaning, with Illustrations . . . . .	298
	(a) An act unfinished at a past time. . . . .	298
	(b) An act statedly repeated . . . . .	298
	(c) To be distinguished from the Aorist . . . . .	299
	(d) An inchoative act . . . . .	300
	(e) Potential sense from the Inchoative . . . . .	300
	(f) The "resolved Imperfect" . . . . .	301
363.	THE FUTURE TENSE . . . . .	301
	General meaning, with Illustrations . . . . .	301
	(a) Indefinite futurity . . . . .	301
	(b) Command, especially in prohibitions . . . . .	301
	(c) General truths or maxims, "Ethical Future" . . . . .	302
	(d) Future with <i>οὐ μὴ</i> (see § 377) . . . . .	302
	(e) The "resolved Future," or Future Imperfect . . . . .	302
	(f) The Future Auxiliary, <i>μέλλω</i> . . . . .	302
	Use of <i>θέλω</i> , <i>to will</i> , emphatic; with Examples . . . . .	302
364.	THE AORIST TENSES . . . . .	303
	General meaning, with Illustrations . . . . .	303
	(a) The absolutely past, "Preterite" . . . . .	303
	Distinction between Aorist, Imperfect, and Perfect . . . . .	303
	(b) The Aorist, as Pluperfect . . . . .	304
	(c) The "Epistolary Aorist" . . . . .	304
	(d) Sometimes equivalent to our Present Indicative . . . . .	305
	(e) Marking the completeness of an act . . . . .	305

SECT.		PAGE
365.	THE PERFECT TENSE . . . . .	305
	General meaning, and Illustrations . . . . .	305
	(a) A completed action, or one whose consequences remain . . . . .	305
	(b) Distinction between the Perfect and Aorist. . . . .	305
366.	THE PLUPERFECT TENSE . . . . .	306
	Rare in the New Testament: an act repeated in the past . . . . .	306
367.	The "Perfect Present," and corresponding Pluperfect . . . . .	306
368.	INTERROGATIVE FORMS . . . . .	307
	With or without interrogative words . . . . .	307
	Elliptic questions . . . . .	308
369.	Peculiar forms of affirmative reply . . . . .	308
370.	Negative questions . . . . .	308
	(a) With <i>οὐ</i> ; (b) with <i>μή</i> ; (c) with <i>μήτι</i> . . . . .	308
	<b>The Imperative Mood.</b> . . . .	309
371.	Used for command or entreaty . . . . .	309
	<i>μή</i> its proper negative Adverb . . . . .	309
372.	Employed in simple permission . . . . .	309
373.	<i>Tenses of the Imperative</i> . . . . .	309
	(a) The Present—generality, continuity, repetition . . . . .	309
	(b) The Aorist—instantaneousness, completeness . . . . .	310
	(c) The Perfect (very rare) . . . . .	310
	Contrast between Present and Aorist illustrated . . . . .	310
374.	<b>The Subjunctive Mood</b> . . . . .	311
	<i>Always really dependent.</i> Elliptical forms . . . . .	311
375.	The Subjunctive in independent sentences . . . . .	311
	1. As a hortatory Imperative—First Person . . . . .	311
	2. As the Imperative in prohibitions . . . . .	311
376.	3. In questioning or doubt, "Deliberative Subjunctive" . . . . .	312
377.	4. In strong denial (Aorist), with <i>οὐ μή</i> . . . . .	312
	5. For the Future Perfect (Aorist) . . . . .	313
378.	<b>The Optative Mood</b> . . . . .	313
	<i>Always really dependent</i> . . . . .	313
	The Optative in independent sentences . . . . .	313
	1. To express a wish . . . . .	313
	So with <i>μή</i> ( <i>μή γένοιτο</i> !) . . . . .	313
	2. With <i>ἄν</i> for Potential . . . . .	314
	THE MOODS IN DEPENDENT CLAUSES . . . . .	314
379.	Different kinds of Subordinate Clauses . . . . .	314
380.	Mood and Tense in such Clauses . . . . .	314
	The Subjunctive after words compounded with <i>ἄν</i> . . . . .	314
381.	OBJECT SENTENCES . . . . .	314
	<i>ἔτι</i> with the Indicative . . . . .	315
382.	(a) Direct quotation: Pleonastic <i>ἔτι</i> . . . . .	315
	(b) Indirect quotation: "Oratio obliqua" . . . . .	315

SECT.		PAGE
382.	(c) Indirect interrogation . . . . .	315
	Use of the Indicative, the Subjunctive, and the Optative . . . . .	316
	(d) Object and Objective Sentence after some Verbs . . . . .	317
383	CONDITIONAL SENTENCES . . . . .	317
	The "Protasis" and "Apodosis" . . . . .	317
	Four forms of the Conditional Sentence . . . . .	317
	α. The supposition of a <i>fact</i> (εἰ, Indicative) . . . . .	317
	β. The supposition of a <i>possibility</i> (ἐάν, Subjunctive) . . . . .	318
	γ. Entire <i>uncertainty</i> (εἰ, Optative) . . . . .	318
	δ. A condition <i>unfulfilled</i> (εἰ, Indicative past ... ἄν, Indicative past) . . . . .	319
384.	INTENTIONAL CLAUSES : expressive of purpose or design . . . . .	320
	The Intentional Particles (ἵνα, ὅπως, μή) . . . . .	320
	(a) With the Subjunctive, to express intention . . . . .	320
	(Distinction between Intentional and Object Sentences) . . . . .	320
	Does ἵνα ever mean <i>so that</i> ? . . . . .	321
	Passages relating to Scripture prophecy . . . . .	321
	The negative intentional particle . . . . .	322
	(b) With the Indicative Future (infrequent), conveying emphasis, force . . . . .	323
	An <i>apparent</i> Indicative Present in Intentional Sentences . . . . .	323
385.	The Infinitive . . . . .	324
	(a) Properly a Verbal Substantive . . . . .	324
	(b) Negative Adverbs with the Infinitive . . . . .	324
	(c) The Infinitive governs the same cases as the Verb . . . . .	324
386.	<i>Tenses of the Infinitive</i> . . . . .	324
	Present, Aorist, Future, Perfect . . . . .	324
387.	<i>Subject of the Infinitive</i> (compare § 285). . . . .	325
388.	The Infinitive <i>as Subject</i> (substantivised) . . . . .	325
389.	The Infinitive <i>as Object</i> . . . . .	325
	(a) After Verbs denoting faculty, act, assertion, etc. . . . .	325
	(b) To denote intention or result . . . . .	326
	(1) After a Verb . . . . .	326
	(2) After a Substantive . . . . .	326
	(3) After an Adjective . . . . .	326
390.	The Infinitive <i>in oblique cases</i> (as Lat., gerund) . . . . .	326
	(a) Genitive, with τοῦ . . . . .	326
	(1) After Substantives . . . . .	326
	(2) After Verbs . . . . .	327
	(3) To express design . . . . .	327
	(b) Dative, with τῷ, to express cause . . . . .	327
	(c) With Prepositions (τοῦ, τῷ, τό) . . . . .	327
	Illustrations : διὰ, εἰς, ἐν, μετά, πρό, πρὸς, ἀντί . . . . .	328
391.	Infinitive of <i>result</i> , with ὥστε (so Indicative) . . . . .	328
392.	Infinitive <i>as Imperative</i> . . . . .	329



SECT.		PAGES
393.	<b>The Participles</b> . . . . .	329
	Properly verbal Adjectives . . . . .	329
	Negatives with the Participles . . . . .	330
	Subject of a Participle (Genitive Absolute) . . . . .	330
394.	<b>PREDICATIVE uses of Participles</b> . . . . .	330
	1. <i>After the Substantive Verb</i> : "the resolved Tenses" . . . . .	330
	2. <i>Complementary</i> to the verbal Predicate . . . . .	331
	3. <i>Adjuncts</i> to the verbal Predicate . . . . .	332
	(a) Modal . . . . .	332
	(b) Temporal . . . . .	332
	(1) Contemporaneous (Present Participle) . . . . .	332
	(2) Preceding (Aorist Participle) . . . . .	332
	(3) Succeeding (Future Participle) . . . . .	333
	(c) <i>Relations</i> of cause, condition, etc. . . . .	333
	(d) <i>Intensive</i> (Hebraistic) . . . . .	333
	A Predicative Participle may be modified by <i>ὥς</i> . . . . .	333
395.	<b>ATTRIBUTIVE use of Participles</b> . . . . .	334
	Epithetic (like Adjectives) . . . . .	334
396.	<b>With the Article</b> : like the Relative and a Finite Verb . . . . .	334
	The Temporal reference sometimes lost . . . . .	335
	Usual force of the Present Tense . . . . .	335
397.	<b>Participles in <i>broken constructions</i></b> . . . . .	335
	Anacolouthon (compare § 412) . . . . .	336

## CHAPTER VII.—ADVERBS.

398.	Their general use . . . . .	337
399.	Adverbial phrases . . . . .	337
	(a) A Substantive with or without Preposition . . . . .	337
	(b) An Adjective . . . . .	337
	(c) A Participle . . . . .	337
	(d) The combination of two Verbs . . . . .	338
400.	Adverbs as <i>Prepositions</i> (see § 133) . . . . .	338
	Combinations of Adverbs . . . . .	338
401.	The <i>Negative Adverbs</i> , <i>οὐ</i> and <i>μή</i> . . . . .	338
	Combinations of Negatives . . . . .	339
	Comparison sometimes expressed as denial . . . . .	339

## CHAPTER VIII.—CONJUNCTIONS.

402.	Rule for words connected by Conjunctions . . . . .	340
403.	Conjunctions OF ANNEXATION: especially <i>καί</i> , <i>and</i> . . . . .	340

SECT.		PAGE
403.	Special uses of <i>καί</i> . . . . .	340
	(a) For rhetorical emphasis . . . . .	340
	(b) In the enumeration of particulars (with <i>τε</i> ) . . . . .	340
	(c) Marking points of transition . . . . .	341
	(d) Explanatory : " <i>καί</i> epexegetic" . . . . .	341
	(e) As <i>also, even</i> . . . . .	341
	Frequently in comparisons, and in the rising climax . . . . .	342
404.	Conjunctions OF ANTITHESIS : especially <i>ἀλλά, δέ</i> . . . . .	342
	1. <i>ἀλλά, but</i> , marks opposition, interruption, transition . . . . .	342
	(1) To throw emphasis on its clauses . . . . .	343
	(2) In the Apodosis of a Conditional Sentence, <i>yet</i> . . . . .	343
	(3) After a negative, <i>ἀλλ' ἢ, except</i> . . . . .	343
	2. <i>δέ, but</i> , unemphatic adversative . . . . .	344
	Often may be rendered, <i>and, then, now, etc.</i> . . . . .	344
	<i>καί ... δέ, yea ... moreover</i> . . . . .	344
	Antithesis with <i>μὲν ... δέ</i> . . . . .	344
	<i>μὲν</i> occasionally without <i>δέ</i> (three cases) . . . . .	345
405.	THE DISJUNCTIVES : especially <i>ἢ, εἴτε</i> . . . . .	345
	<i>ἢ ... ἢ, ἥτοι ... ἢ, εἴτε ... εἴτε</i> . . . . .	345
	<i>ἢ καί, or even</i> . . . . .	345
	<i>ἢ</i> "interrogative" . . . . .	346
406.	THE INFERENTIAL CONJUNCTIONS : especially <i>ἄρα, οὖν</i> . . . . .	346
	Their distinction. Slighter meanings . . . . .	346
	Other Inferential Particles . . . . .	346
407.	THE CAUSAL CONJUNCTIONS : especially <i>γάρ</i> . . . . .	347
	(a) Relative Conjunctions, as <i>ὅτι, because</i> . . . . .	347
	(b) The Demonstrative Causal <i>γάρ, for</i> . . . . .	347
	Introduces a direct reason . . . . .	347
	Or the reason of some fact implied. . . . .	347
	(c) Sometimes refers to a suggested thought . . . . .	347
	(d) The combination <i>καὶ γάρ</i> , its two senses . . . . .	348
408.	ASYNDETON : or the omission of Conjunctions . . . . .	348
	(a) Of the Copulative . . . . .	348
	(b) Of <i>καί</i> , Epexegetic . . . . .	348
	(c) Of the Antithetic . . . . .	349
	(d) Of the Causal Particle . . . . .	349

## CHAPTER IX.—ON SOME PECULIARITIES IN THE STRUCTURE OF SENTENCES.

409.	The ARRANGEMENT of Words . . . . .	350
	(a) General rules . . . . .	350
	(b, c) Emphasis gained by variety of arrangement . . . . .	350

SECT.	PAGE
410. SPECIAL FORMS OF ELLIPSIS. . . . .	351
1. Apostopēsis . . . . .	351
2. Zeugma . . . . .	351
Inartificial collocation of Clauses . . . . .	351
411. APPARENT REDUNDANCY . . . . .	352
(a) For special emphasis ; frequently ; in three ways . . . . .	352
(b) Object and Object-sentence (see § 382) . . . . .	352
412. ANACOLOUTHON . . . . .	352
(Not to be hastily assumed) . . . . .	352
(a) Transition from indirect to direct speech . . . . .	352
(b) Transition from a Participle to a Finite Verb . . . . .	353
(c) Nominative Participles standing alone (see § 397) . . . . .	353
(d) A sudden change of structure . . . . .	353
(e) The non-completion of a Compound Sentence . . . . .	353
413. ATTENTION TO SOUND AND RHYTHM . . . . .	354
(a) Paronomasia . . . . .	354
Simple alliteration . . . . .	354
Alliteration associated with kindred meanings . . . . .	354
(b) Parallelisms, after the manner of Hebrew . . . . .	354
Christian hymns . . . . .	354
Rhythmic constructions in passages of strong emotion . . . . .	354
"Chiasmus" . . . . .	355
(c) (1) Quotations of Greek poetry in the New Testament . . . . .	355
(2) Metrical lines apparently unconsciously introduced . . . . .	356
ANALYTICAL EXERCISE ON 2 THESSALONIANS . . . . .	357
ON SOME NEW TESTAMENT SYNONYMS . . . . .	369
Introductory Remarks . . . . .	369
List of Words illustrated . . . . .	371
I. Verbs in ordinary use . . . . .	374
II. Words chiefly expressive of moral quality . . . . .	377
III. Theological and Ecclesiastical Words . . . . .	380
IV. Miscellaneous . . . . .	383
VOCABULARY . . . . .	387